

Fall 2021

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

All Politics Department courses are open to all students who meet the prerequisites. For information on requirements for any Politics major or minor, please see the Patricia Rodriguez, Chair of the Politics Department, 312 Muller Faculty Center.

POLT 10100-01 U.S. POLITICS SS LA 1b h

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: *Juan Arroyo*, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

OBJECTIVES: Institutions, processes, and cultural/ideological roots of U.S. politics. We begin by studying a framework of ideologies that will help us to understand the political-economic institutions that have evolved to reflect the conditions of U.S. society: Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, judiciary, parties, interest groups, media, and the electoral process. Throughout, we will constantly ask: how democratic is this place? What are your criteria for measuring democracy? Students will be invited to consider how money affects the ability of citizens to influence the political process. Analysis of specific policies may include social security, abortion, health care, taxes, civil liberties, foreign policy, etc.

STUDENTS: Open to all students.

FORMAT AND STYLE: Discussion/lecture

REQUIREMENTS: Readings, active participation in class discussions, 2-3 short papers (3-5 pages), 1 medium paper (5-7 pages), 1 final paper (7-10 pages)

POLT 10100-02, U.S. POLITICS GE:1 Self & Society, GE h: Historical Perspective, (ICC) - Social Sciences, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Carlos Figueroa*, <https://faculty.ithaca.edu/cfigueroa>

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This introductory *discussion-based* course explores a) the development of the U.S. political system, b) the values it is rooted in, c) how it works, d) how politics and policy intersect within it, and e) the system's impact upon individuals and groups alike. We focus on the historical and present *power struggles* concerning national identity, morality, ethics, civic culture, political affiliation, the role of media, the competing national institutions, race, class, and other ascriptive identities, surveillance capitalism, and policy development within the context of a representative and neoliberal U.S. democratic capitalist system.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion-based; group work; guest speakers (ZOOM); films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Bi-Weekly reflective journal entries; in-class exercises/debates; Final paper

POLT 12200-01 Politics and Society LA SS TPJ TQSF

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Patricia Rodríguez*

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This comparative/global politics introductory course explores the impact of social forces and societal dynamics on the politics of diverse countries, as well as the influence of politics and the state on society. We will examine how and to what extent political institutions, individual and collective political action, and historical circumstances are capable of shaping political and social developments in different countries and regions of the world. The key questions to be examined in the course are these: Are there different versions of democracy, why? Why/when do democracies emerge but also breakdown? Who has power, and why is state power often wielded in repressive manners in different types of political systems? What role do international actors play in reconstructing governments, and with what consequences internally and globally? Are there resistances to this role of international actors, and why; what impact does citizen activism have in global and national political and economic issues, particularly conflict resolution, democratic rule, migration issues and climate change issues?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, Lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, participation

POLT 12800-01, INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;

ICC DESIGNATION: Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Naeem Inayatullah*, Muller 325, Ext. x-3012

ENROLLMENT:25

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We examine and discuss the history of international relations theory from the turn of the early 1900s to the present. That history divides into three phases: a focus on what to do with the threat presented by “brown, black, and red” people in the colonies (1900s to the beginning of WWII); the so called “Cold War” (1945-1989); and, the contemporary period (1989-present) in which the threat from the former colonies re-appears as central.

The course shows how orthodox and mainstream theory/practice hides and thereby reveals its dependence on concepts of race and colonialism. It is also a course that takes seriously the role of traditional realist theory as part of the historical and theoretical record. Issues include security, the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, ideology, and the role of race, gender, and class in how we think of the international. This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: three essays.

POLT 12900-01, EXPLORATIONS IN GLOBAL & COMPARATIVE STUDIES SS LA
1b, g; ICC Social Sciences; Theme: Identities; Theme: Power & Justice
3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, 314 Muller, ext. 4-3508

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course examines critical global issues, including the nature and impact of globalization; the role of international institutions such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization; dynamics of representation, culture and identity formation; human rights and the protection of human security in a competitive marketplace; and the dilemmas of sovereignty, militarism and the struggle for a just peace. Students will assess some national and international policies and explore policy alternatives, collective responses, and responsibilities. The course utilizes country case studies, international simulations, literature, and film and emphasizes global awareness and critical thinking. It will provide fundamental analytical frames through which students can address current debates on the global future.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, and collaborative work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, active participation, presentations, tests, essays, and projects.

POLT 14200-01,02 IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES

(ICC) Humanities, Social Sciences, Power and Justice, World of Systems

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: *Kelly Dietz*, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 25 (Section 1) 25 (Section 2)

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What to you makes a good society, and why? Where do your ideas and beliefs about the world come from? How do you know your beliefs are correct, and why might it be useful to entertain doubt about your own views? How do your individual beliefs relate to broader systems of thought we call ideologies? This course requires self-reflection on these questions as we explore ideological perspectives on political, social and economic life. Through readings, film, art, music and your own observations, the course focuses on key political ideas and the ideological debates over their meaning and practice. We examine concepts such as liberty, equality, democracy, human nature, security, order, authority, community and nation. We consider how these and other political ideas developed historically, why certain ideas endure, and why they remain important to understanding politics today. In doing so we also pay close attention to how political ideas reflect, reinforce, and challenge relations of power, especially in terms of class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The course encourages critical reflection on where your views about the world come from, and which ideas you take for granted. Encounters with views and theories different from our own help bring to light our unconscious assumptions and also what is distinctive about our political views. Ideological perspectives the course explores include liberalism and conservatism (and their “neo” variants), socialism, anarchism, and fascism.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: mostly discussion, occasional short lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: active participation, weekly writing about course materials, midterm and final essays

POLT 14600-01, 02: Gender and Political Theory (also counts for Women and Gender Studies) 3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: *Sumru Atuk*

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course critically explores the foundational texts of “Western” political thought, which inform our political vocabulary. Reading canonical thinkers, together with their feminist critics, we will discuss how gender, race, class, slavery, and colonialism inform core political science concepts. In doing so, we juxtapose the knowledge of the past and our daily lives. As such, this course provides students with a “practical” understanding of political theory, which they can use to interpret the contemporary phenomena around them. We will use the method of immanent critique in assessing historical texts, which requires understanding them on their own terms in the first place. We ask: How do the discourses of gender and sexuality affect our conception of political power? To what extent have political theory and practice been shaped by assumptions about manhood and its relation to politics?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation

POLT 19500-01 FOOD AND WATER: CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: *Juan M. Arroyo*, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

At some level, we may think we know what it means to eat and drink sustainably. This course will challenge prevailing conceptions by examining different, and often conflicting, definitions of sustainability. Even if we do decide to eat and drink differently, we face challenges in changing individual behavior and social patterns in more sustainable directions: Political systems privilege certain ideas and also specific interests. Economic structures and patterns limit our choices. Anthropological, cultural, and sociological backgrounds shape our options. Biological and psychological predispositions affect our ability to eat and drink sustainably. Students will consider the “simple” acts of eating and drinking from all of these perspectives. Students will be challenged to understand the potential for changing patterns of food consumption and production, examining their own choices, their communities, and the socio-political system in which we are embedded. ICC THEME: Quest for Sustainability; Social Science Perspective

PREREQUISITES: Open to all students.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion/lecture; expert presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Readings, active participation in class discussions, readings reactions, research and reaction papers; A-F.

POLT 32900-01 Comparative Politics of the Global South SS, LA, GLAS; 3 Credits

*will submit for diversity ICC approval

T/Th 2:35pm

INSTRUCTOR: *Patricia Rodríguez*

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing (S)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course critically examines internationalism and grassroots organizing in the Global South, including in different regions (Asia/Pacific, Africa, Latin America). Some of the issues that will be discussed are 'subaltern' knowledge production, and past and emerging forms of political struggle against: colonialism; local and global inequalities; racism, gender, labor discriminations; and ecological devastation. The objectives are to specify the common features, particularities, and challenges of/in Global South countries, particularly in the efforts to transform geopolitical power relations, construct solidarities, and solidify political projects towards a fairer and equal world. Some of the readings will include all or parts of:

[Lorgia García-Peña](#), *The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation, and Archives of Contradiction*; and Walter Rodney: *The Russian Revolution: A View from the Third World*, edited by Robin Kelley and Jesse Benjamin. Counts as a Comparative & International Studies course for politics majors and international politics minors.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussions/lecture/films

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: papers, projects, participation

POLT 33400-01 POLITICS OF RIGHTS AND CULTURE SS LA

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, 314 Muller, ext. 4-3508

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore Standing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students investigate controversial issues, case studies, philosophical and legal debates that address the question of whether human rights are truly universal. Together we will explore the contradictory ways in which religious, social, and cultural forces, gender and class dynamics, and structural global inequalities generate diverse concepts of moral rights, justice, freedoms, and protections. Participants will also analyze the differences in human rights documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam/Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights. We will seek to answer critical questions such as that posed by Mahmood Mamdani: "can a culture of individual rights coexist with the right of every individual to practice one's culture?" Participants will engage in will make meaningful contributions to human rights discourses and practice.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, independent/collaborative research, and fieldwork.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, active participation, research, and presentations. Assessment methods set by the instructor.

POLT 34051-01 The European Union

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Juan M. Arroyo*

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITE: Three courses in the social sciences, or equivalent

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The European Union is frequently in the news because it is being shaken by economic trouble, immigration, populism, and by nationalist sentiments. This course starts by asking what the EU is, and why it should matter to US students. What is Europe anyway? Should Turkey be admitted, or not? The bulk of the course is about how the EU works and what it does. Is there a democratic deficit that threatens the EU? How does the EU challenge our notions of national identity, of the nation-state, globalization, etc.? Specific topics may include the creation of the Euro currency, the challenge of a common reaction to the COVID crisis, and the formation of a European foreign policy. A regular theme will examine the backlash against the EU, as illustrated by Brexit, and a resurgence of both the far-right and far left as a reaction to the EU

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture with discussion;

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Readings, papers, class participation; A-F

POLT 34300-01: Feminist Theory (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: Sumru Atuk

ENROLLMENT: 30

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Why do we study feminist theory? What is its value beyond an academic endeavor? What is the relationship between feminist theory and political praxis? How can theory be useful in interpreting contemporary events, such as the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements? This course equips students with the skills necessary to understand some of the core texts of feminist theory and use them to interpret contemporary political and social phenomena. Hence, in this class we will approach feminist thought as a method of understanding the world and an analytical tool that provides insights to transform the status quo. Some of our thematic focal topics will include the feminist approaches to and criticism of “Western” political thought, the “woman question,” performativity, contestations over the meaning of feminism, consciousness raising, public/private divide, feminist theories of the state, intersectionality, black feminist thought, Mestiza feminism, post-colonial feminism, transnational feminism and solidarity, and current feminist debates.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation

POLT 40110-01 ST: Struggles of People and Place

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: *Kelly Dietz*, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITE: Junior/Senior status and at least one Politics course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political maps of the world today are remarkable for their neatness. Bold lines mark the division of continents into countries, with no overlap. Bold labels identify the spaces created by the lines, giving a name to both the place and the people. Another way to make this point is to note that everyone is organized and divided spatially; we all have a place on today’s political map, but apparently only one place—every person lives within one set of lines,

under one name. This arrangement of people and place is taken for granted by most of us today, but to what extent is this a natural state of affairs? What forces—political, economic, social, cultural—gave rise to such a straightforward representation of the world’s people and territory? How did it come to be taken for granted? What and who might this neatness obscure, or erase? How is it being challenged, and why? Is the state system as we know it here to stay? Taking the contemporary political map as our analytical point of departure, this course explores the struggles over identity and territory that created (and sustain) this particular way of organizing people and place, and the struggles that emerged as a result. Struggles and disputes over territory and identity will be examined in their multiple forms, from military force to contested representations in popular culture. The course pays particular attention to competing narratives about people and place, and how power relations shape whose stories count in which contexts. Throughout the course we will reflect critically on how our own identities and claims to place relate to the topics under discussion.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Active participation, weekly writing about course materials, midterm and final essay.

POLT 40111-01 Theories of Exploitation LA SS

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Naeem Inayatullah*, Muller 325, Ext. 4-3028

ENROLLEMENT: 10

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Understanding the meaning of “exploitation” in social relations. Locating and specifying the relationship between race, class, gender, and capitalism. Exploring the relationship between exploitation and Marx’s Labor Theory of Value. Understanding the limits of “intersectionality” and moving beyond them.

CLASS FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion, Collective collaboration in exploring ideas, alternative and radical pedagogy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Three essays.

POLT 40205-01, Seminar: Faith and Race in American Political Life

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: *Carlos Figueroa*, <https://faculty.ithaca.edu/cfigueroa>

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: Junior/Senior status (or instructor permission).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the confluence of race and religion in American political life. Through close readings of primary and secondary sources within both a historical context & contemporary perspective, we examine scholarly political discourses and public national policy debates covering several themes: religion, race, and American political culture; constitutional struggles over religious freedom/state power (separation of church/state & establishment clause); religion and slavery/anti-slavery debates; Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in national identity formation & immigration policy debates; the Confederate flag and southern religious practices; the concept of redemption and Jim Crow; the power of religion and the Civil Rights Movement; the Social Gospel, Prosperity Gospel, and the power of Megachurches; White Supremacy and black

political insurgency and Black Liberation Theology; Womanist Theology and representative politics; the Nation of Islam and black politics; Asian and Latino Religious Traditions in American political life.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion-based; guest speakers (ZOOM); films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Bi-Weekly reflective journal entries; 2 papers